GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2807
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS RESERVES
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Hydrocarbons is planning to collect data on the oil and natural gas reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several oil and gas fields have not been properly explored in the country;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost oil and gas exploration in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b):- Yes Sir. Collection of data on Oil & Natural Gas reserves in the country is a continuous process. Total prognosticated resources of the country have been estimated at about 28 billion tonnes. The proven Oil and Gas Reserves of the country, as on 1.4.2005, are of the order of 1812 Million Metric Tonnes.

(c) & (d):-No Sir. Exploration is a high risk and capital intensive activity. Exploration activities are being carried out by National Oil Companies (NOCs), private companies, both domestic and foreign, in areas awarded to them under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and the pre-NELP regime. The exploration programmes are being carried out in terms of the respective Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) or in terms of Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) granted on a nomination basis and are monitored periodically by the Government .

(e) To boost the oil & gas exploration in the country, the Government has awarded 90 exploratory blocks under four rounds of NELP with attractive terms and conditions. 20 more blocks have been offered under NELP-V. In addition, exploration is also conducted in pre-NELP blocks and areas given to NOCs on nomination basis. These exploration efforts have resulted in 17 oil and gas discoveries during 2004-05.